

B2
B3
A2

a computer system comprising at least one processor and at least one memory, the computer system being adapted and arranged for:

creating an electronic tag that uniquely identifies an electronic record;
storing the electronic tag; and
distributing the electronic record associated with the electronic tag.

Sub
B3
A3

17. [Amended] An article of manufacture for managing electronic records in a distributed computing environment, the article of manufacture comprising a computer-readable storage medium having a computer program embodied therein that causes the computer network to perform the steps of:

creating an electronic tag that uniquely identifies an electronic record;
storing the electronic tag; and
distributing the electronic record associated with the electronic tag.

REMARKS

This Amendment and Response is in reply to the Office Action dated October 19, 2000.

A three (3) month extension of time is filed herewith. Accordingly, the time period for response extends up to and includes April 19, 2001. For the reasons more fully outlined below and in the original specification, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims now pending are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of all rejections.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

At paragraph 2 of the Office Action, claims 1-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,786,817 to Sakano et al. Applicant respectfully